DECLASSIFIED PER EO 12958, SECT 3.4
NND PROJECT NUMBER 974352 YEAR DECLASSIFIED: 97
RICHARD L. BOYLAN, NATIONAL ARCHIVES DATE COPIED:

(CLASSIFICATION) CONFIDENTIAL

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)	REPORT NO.	PAGE 32 OF 41 PAGES
7050 AISW	181392-59-1471 F	

PLACE	WAC NO.	FN	EVAL	IN CODE NO.
STALINO, SHCHERBAKOV	249, 154		F-6	

POLITICAL LOCATION	DESCRIPTIVE NAME OF REPORT
STALINGRADSKAYA OBLAST, YAROSLAVSKAYA OBLAST	Conditions in USSR

SOVIET ECON. REGION	PROPER NAME	IMENI	DATES OF INFORMATION
SOUTH, CENTRAL INDUSTRIAL			FROM Dec 52 TO Oct 53

I. PREAMBLE:

SOURCE, interned from Dec 52 to Jun 53 in PW camp # 6114/3, pt 1, Incl # 2, Report E, in STALINO (4759N-3750E), worked as handyman on constr of residential houses, pt 3, Incl # 2, Report E, and on other constr jobs. During this time he occasionally spoke with Russian laborers and foremen. Strictly guarded while on move, but freedom of movement at work site. Interned from Jun 53 to Oct 53 in repatriation camp # 82/2/3 in SHCHERBAKOV (5803N-3852E), which he never left because of illness. Info firsthand, unless stated otherwise.

II. CONDITIONS IN USSR:

Soviet Attitudes Toward General Political Problems.

4. The most important particularly opposed group consists of those confined in labor camps. Their number was estimated by Russians to be from 30 to 40 million people. To have been an inmate of a forced labor camp is an experience which every second or third Soviet citizen must have had, as Russians said themselves. SOURCE stated that almost every Russian he talked to had previously been interned in one of those camps, and everyone of them opposed the communist regime. The next largest group is to be found among Russian laborers because their wages are insufficient and their living standard low. SOURCE heard several times a joke which is frequently referred to by laborers:" When Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin met they asked each other what a laborer in his country earned within a certain period of time. Roosevelt and Churchill said, "a man made about 300 Dollars and needed 200 Dollars for a living. "What does he do with the rest?" Stalin asked. "That's his own business" they said. Stalin stated that a Russian laborer earned 500 Rubles and needed 800 Rubles for a living. "And where does he get the rest from?" the two asked. "That's his own business," Stalin replied.

5. The strongest supporters of the regime are to be found among MVD personnel and about two million members of the communist party, as SOURCE heard from Russians. Although most of the young people are either members of the "Komzomo" (SOURCE'S spelling; translated "youth movement") or are obliged to attend political meetings. SOURCE was under the impression that many did not wholly believe in the communist theory. They seemed to hear from PWs about conditions in other countries, were suspicious at first, but then seemed to believe what PWs told them. SOURCE was impressed by the eagerness of the young people to learn the truth. He believed that the presence of PWs in Russia and the experience of Russian soldiers and officers who had returned from occupied Eastern Germany contributed a great deal to causing doubts in the minds of young Russians and natives in general regarding their attitude toward communist theories.

6. Major sources of discontent among the Soviet population before Stalin's death was the extremely low living standard, poor quality of consumer goods and high prices. Meat, butter, sugar and fat were considered luxuries which the common laborer could not afford to buy. Every Russian laborer looked with disgust upon the "little" and "big" foremen and the still bigger officials who wore decent clothing or drove a car. SOURCE believed that the Russian laborer was fully aware of the fact that he was underpaid and that the various privileges of superiors were based upon the amount and the quality of work accomplished by him. Laborers also realized that their poor housing conditions were inadequate compared with the privileges of higher class people in this respect. SOURCE knew of many instances where married couples had to work in factories or on constr jobs in order to make a living, and it

NOTE: THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE ESPIONAGE ACT, 50 U. S. C.—31 AND 32, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR THE REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS IN ANY MANNER TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. IT MAY NOT BE REPRODUCED IN WHOLE OR IN PART, BY OTHER THAN UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AGENCIES, EXCEPT BY PERMISSION OF THE DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE, USAF.

DECLASSIFIED PER EO 12958, SECT 3.4
NND PROJECT NUMBER 974352 YEAR DECLASSIFIED: 97
RICHARD L. BOYLAN, NATIONAL ARCHIVES DATE COPIED:

was often the case that the woman worked during the day and her husband during the night. Some laborers told SOURCE that they felt mad about compulsory state loans for which laborers had to sign up "volunteerely".

C. Events Following the Death of Stalin.

7. When SOURCE talked with laborers about Stalin or Lenin he generally found them in favor of Lenins ideas and feeling sorry that he had died before Stalin. Russians believed that Lenin was fighting for true communism while Stalin was considered a dictator. Lenin, they believed, wanted to disown only the big landowners while Stalin disowned every bit of land down to a chicken farmer. SOURCE emphasized that Russians never spoke up against Stalin or existing conditions in the presence of other Russians; they did it only when no countrymen were around.

8. After Stalin's death became known no one SOURCE contacted seemed depressed or sad. Several truck drivers mentioned they hoped everything would change and conditions in general would improve. When asked why they cherished this hope they replied that conditions under Stalin were so bad they couldn't become worse, so they might as well hope for improve. SOURCE was convinced these were typical reactions of the rest of the Soviet population because every PW with whom he talked afterwards and after his repatriation had made the same observations.

9. SOURCE once met a prisoner who had been released due to the amnesty act of Mar 27, 1953. He told him he was sure this act did by no means include prisoners interned for political reasons; as long as communism would exist this category of prisoners would never be freed. SOURCE believed also that no Russian thought this amnesty would include political convicts. They thought and expressed their feelings in the following manner:"These criminials have come out of prison, but it won't be long before they will be back again."

11. Russians were of the opinion the price cut after Apr 1st 53, did not mean any worth while improvement of their living conditions. From what the papers had said before the reduction became effective Russians had expected prices would be cut down to the pre-war standard, but this wasn't so. The main reason for their disappointment was the fact that a little later work norms were raised. They had to work harder and get the same money as before, and the little profit they had by the reduction of prices had to be paid by more strenuous labor. Work norms for PWs were also raised after Apr 1st 53. They did more work without receiving more pay.

12. On and after Jan 13 the announcement of the arrest of the "Kremlin Doctors" became known Russian laborers in general seemed to be pleased. SOURCE frequently had observed during previous conversations with laborers that they were more antisemitic than for instance the Germans. This attitude was based upon the commonly well known fact that all leading positions in Soviet economic life were held by Jews. Russian truck drivers told SOURCE that they hoped and expected that after this "doctors affair" in the Kremlin the Jewish supervisory personnel would be replaced by Russians. Laborers rumored that the Jewish doctors were in some mysterious way mixed up with the death of Stalin; and it was commonly rumored among Russians that Stalin's death had not been a natural one.

13. The news of the Jun 17 revolt in East Berlin was for about 20 days spread in daily broadcasts. The revolting laborers were classified as "fascists" or "Western Agents". SOURCE never spoke with Russians about this event.

17. SOURCE himself did not speak with Russians as to who was the real power in the Soviet Government, but he gathered from highly intelligent fellow PWs who had talked with civilians about political matters that many Russians, particularly laborers, were of the opinion that even before his death Stalin was not the only man and that after his death a silent struggle was going on as to who would be the strongest man out of the five who were nominated to lead the nation after Stalins death. Russians told SOURCE they did not believe that Malenkov was a sufficiently strong personality to act as successor of Stalin.

NOTE: THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE ESPIONAGE ACT, 50 U. S. C.—31 AND 32, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR THE REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS IN ANY MANNER TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. IT MAY NOT BE REPRODUCED IN WHOLE OR IN PART, BY OTHER THAN UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AGENCIES, EXCEPT BY PERMISSION OF THE DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE USAF.

DECLASSIFIED PER EO 12958, SECT 3.4
NND PROJECT NUMBER 974352 YEAR DECLASSIFIED: 97
RICHARD L. BOYLAN, NATIONAL ARCHIVES DATE COPIED:

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)	REPORT NO.	PAGE 34 OF 41 PAGES
7050 AISW	181392-59-1471 F	

18. Russians did not particularly believe that the policy of post-Stalin Government would bring about any changes. It was obvious, however, that everybody had the strong hope that some changes might become effective which would improve conditions of the Stalin period. SOURCE assumed that this hope had its natural cause in the facty that conditions under Stalin had been so bad and simply must improve in the future.

D. Purges, Resistance Activities and Mass Arrests.

19. SOURCE heard from Russians and fellow PWs who had learned from Russians that two illegal organizations existed all over Russia, in forests and also in cities. They are called "Sjornie Rucki" (SOURCE'S spelling; translated "Black Hand"), and "Sjornie Cotska" (SOURCE'S spelling; translated "Black Cat"). They wear arms and are believed to have existed since WW II. Russians told SOURCE they are composed of both criminals and political antigonists of the Soviet regime. They rob individuals and are engaged in marauding expeditions, but at the same time they attack and kill MVD officers, obviously for the sake of killing them. SOURCE heard for the last time of their existence in Aug 53. He believed that they must be well organized. SOURCE himself had no contact with political prisoners.

22. SOURCE heard from Russians that in the area of VORKUTA (6730N-6403E) a great number of Estonians is interned in labor camps. Many Greeks who had formerly lived in colonies near SEVASTOPOL (4437N-3332E) had been deported to unknown places in the Soviet Union. Russian civilians who collaborated with the German Army or had been compelled by German authorities to work in Germany during the war were generally fined ten years of forced labor, as SOURCE was frequently told by civilians.

E. Forced Labor Camps.

23. In Feb 51 SOURCE observed forced labor camp, pt 2, Report D, in DNEPROPETROVSK (4828N-3502E), with at least 1,000 inmates, male and female, of the former about 60 %. SOURCE believed they were all Russian criminals, and he heard from Russians that each individual was kept interned from two to five years. They were all employed on constr jobs in unknown sites. SOURCE occasionally observed shipments in and out of several prisoners.

24. While interned in repatriation camp # 82/2/3 in SHCHERBAKOV which SOURCE never left during internment because he was sick he got aquainted with the following non-Soviet nationals which were neither PWs nor so-called war criminals:

American, Cox (SOURCE'S spelling), called "Jim" (SOURCE'S spelling). About 33 years old, about 1.75 m tall, broad shoulders, healthy looking and apparently very strong, dark blond hair, color of eyes unknown, dark complexion. Unknown if married. He never spoke much. He told SOURCE who had learned the English language for two years during internment that he was born in OKLAHOMA CITY and had his last residence in CHICAGO. He had living relatives residing in OKLAHOMA CITY, most likely also his mother. His grandmother was of Indian descend. He told SOURCE that he had been in the US Navy and a participant in the battle of PEARL HARBOR. He had also been a diver for some time. In camp he wore old clothes which Russians had given to him. He was a member of an unknown unit stationed in BERLIN (5232N-1325E) where he fell into the hands of the Russians for an unknown reason during 48 or 49. He told SOURCE that he had been previously interned in one or more camps, one of them probably VORKUTA, where he had met two British, unknown if soldiers or civilians, and one Canadian who had been a member of an unknown airforce and was a high ranking officer, probably a Colonel. SOURCE knew positive that COX neither received nor was allowed to mail letters. When SOURCE was repatriated in Oct 53 he remained in the camp but had expressed his hope and believe to be released soon.

American, Towers (SOURCE'S spelling), called "Lee" (SOURCE'S spelling). About 28 years old, about 1.73 m tall, of a slender figure, pale looking but healthy, dark blond hair, color of eyes unknown, light complexion. Unknown if married. He used to talk frequently with other internees but seldom to SOURCE. Date of birth and last

NOTE: THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE ESPIONAGE ACT, 50 U. S. C.—31 AND 32, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR THE REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS IN ANY MANNER TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. IT MAY NOT BE REPRODUCED IN WHOLE OR IN PART, BY OTHER THAN UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AGENCIES, EXCEPT BY PERMISSION OF THE DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE USAF.

DECLASSIFIED PER EO 12958, SECT 3.4
NND PROJECT NUMBER 974352 YEAR DECLASSIFIED: 97
RICHARD L. BOYLAN, NATIONAL ARCHIVES DATE COPIED:

residence unknown. SOURCE heard that he had been a member of the US Merchant Marine, unknown exactly when. He spoke pretty good German, Swedish and Spanish. In camp he wore old trowsers of Russian origin and a khaki shirt. SOURCE believed he had been taken prisoner by Russians in BERLIN but was not quite sure of it. He had been in same previous camps as the American Cox. He frequently used to walk around in the camp area all by himself for hours and always showed a broad grin. He neither received nor was allowed to mail letters. SOURCE once listened to a conversation where Towers mentioned that Russians had taken away from him 40 Gold Dollars in a previous camp for which he was paid 800 Rubles in SHCHERBAKOV. When SOURCE was repatriated he remained in camp.

25. From fellow PWs who had been interned in VORKUTA, SOURCE heard that in 1950 political internees were separated from criminals and that there existed at least two categories of forced labor camps for criminals. In one of them were interned the members of a wide-spread criminal gang commonly known by Russians and called "Bladnois" (SOURCE'S spelling; translated "whorse's children"). In the other category were interned criminals of a likewise well known criminal gang called "sukis" (SOURCE'S spelling; translated "bad individual"). PWs assumed they were separated because Russians had told them that when members of both gangs had been interned in one camp they frequently used to kill each other.

While interned in PW camp # 82/2/3 from Jun 53 to Oct 53 in SHCHERBAKOV, SOURCE heard from a Russian guard who was a criminal that this camp had formerly been occupied by Russian criminals and that all guards were criminals and restricted from leaving the camp. In Jul 53 about 60 Russian "bladnois" (SOURCE'S spelling; translated "whorse's children") of Greek descent were shipped into this camp. They tried to oppress PWs, there were frequent quarrels, and one day a regular fight broke out between the two groups whereby several PWs were severely wounded. After this event the 60 criminals were shipped out to another camp in the vicinity, and shortly before PWs were repatriated they returned to this camp, but were kept separate from PWs.

26. SOURCE was told by a fellow PW the following story and added that he could trust this man and was convinced that what he said was true: the man who belonged to an SS-unit had been captured by Russians in 1944 together with several other SS-soldiers. The PWs were lined up in a row, a submachine gun placed in front of them, and were shot and killed except this man who, as he told, had dropped to the ground a little before the gun fired. He lay still among the deads, and although the Russians came over to the executed soldiers and shot several of them who still seemed to be alive in the head with a pistol he was not discovered. After the Russians had turned away he ran to the submachine gun, aimed at the Russians who stood some distance away, and killed them all by firing the gun. He was not caught until about two days afterwards, and since nobody suspected anything particular he got away with the usual treatment of escaped PWs and was just heavily beaten.

SOURCE was told by a fellow PW who had formerly been interned together with a PW who had belonged to a mortar unit during WW II and personally experienced the following: he and his mortar unit had been taken prisoners by Russians who immediately told them that everyone of them would be killed on the spot unless they would fire back at the Germans with the captured mortars. At first everyone refused to do that. Finally one soldier said he would be ready to comply with what they had been asked. His comrades called him a traitor, but he went to the mortar, loaded it and fired about three shots. Several Russians, among them one or two officers, closely watched him. After the third shot he quickly put two shells into the mortar and fired. There was an explosion and the soldier together with most of the Russians who stood next to him were killed or severely wounded.

Spaniard, first name Romero, last name José, 37 years old; about 1.68 m tall, stout, square figure, black hair, dark eyes, dark complexion. Single. Close friend

NOTE: THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE ESPIONAGE ACT, 50 U. S. C.—31 AND 32, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR THE REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS IN ANY MANNER TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. IT MAY NOT BE REPRODUCED IN WHOLE OR IN PART, BY OTHER THAN UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AGENCIES, EXCEPT BY PERMISSION OF THE DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE USAF.

DECLASSIFIED PER EO 12958, SECT 3.4
NND PROJECT NUMBER 974352 YEAR DECLASSIFIED: 97
RICHARD L. BOYLAN, NATIONAL ARCHIVES DATE COPIED:

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)	REPORT NO.	PAGE 36 OF 41 PAGES
7050 AISW	181392-59-1471 F	

of SOURCE who received photograph from him as a keepsake. He lived in Spain during the Spanish Civil War in territory occupied by Reds. SOURCE did not remember name of this home town, which was somewhere near the Portuguese border. Although a non-communist he was drafted by Reds and sent to the Soviet Union in 38 or 39 where he lived in the outskirts of MOSKVA, where he received a pilot's training in that area for an unknown length of time. He wore civilian clothes, was allowed to move free within MOSKVA, and flew an unknown aircraft frequently. He showed SOURCE several photographs showing him and about 50 other Spaniards and several aircraft. Details about pilot's training not available. When WW II broke out or when Germany began war with Russia he and his countrymen were interned in unknown camp. Here he met a French girl by name of Madeleine Clement with whom he fell in love. She resides now at 4, Rue de Navarre, PARIS, France, and probably is an employee of the French Department for Foreign Affairs. SOURCE wrote her a letter telling her that José Romero is alive. She sent a very lovely letter to SOURCE wherein she is thanking him for having imparted the news to her and which obviously reveals that she is still in love with Romero and is anxiously awaiting his return. When SOURCE was repatriated he was still in camp, but hoped to be repatriated soon.

There were 62 other Spaniards in the camp who had formerly belonged to the "Blue Division" which fought against Russia on the German side during WW II; another four Spaniards, names unknown, had belonged to a group of 6,000 Spanish children who had been deported from Spain by Reds to the Soviet Union during the Spanish Civil War. The rest of the 6,000 Spaniards still lived in an unknown town in a colony and had been forced by Soviets to obtain Soviet citizenship; the four Spaniards had been interned because they had refused to become Soviet citizens. Another two Spaniards by name of Pastor and Villanueva had been comrades of the aforementioned José Romero, and their history had been exactly the same as his. None of these three Spaniards was a communist as SOURCE knew definitely, and they were good friends with the other 62 Spaniards of the "Blue Division". SOURCE heard from Spaniards that about 300 Spanish nationals were still interned in Russia. They had formerly been in one camp but were later transferred to other camps in small groups.

Danish, first name Carlson, last name unknown. About 30 years old, 1.80 m tall, square athletic figure, blond hair, color of eyes unknown, light complexion. He told SOURCE that he had been taken prisoner by Russians in 49 while fishing in the Baltic Sea whereby he had unknowingly passed the three mile zone. He was sentenced to three years of forced labor. He had previously been interned together with Russian criminals in unknown camps and was not allowed to receive or mail letters. When SOURCE was repatriated he remained in camp.

Norwegian, first name Larson, last name Norman. Between 40 and 50 years old, 1.73 m tall, a fisher by profession, stout figure, blond hair, light complexion. He spoke Russian fairly well which he had learned during the eight years of his internment. SOURCE never found out why he had been interned.

Norwegian, Jewish, first name Samuelson, female, last name unknown. About 30 years old, 1.70 m tall, black hair, stout, dark complexion. Last residence unknown. SOURCE did not know for what reason she had been interned. She had become acquainted with a Finnish national in camp and intented to return to Finland after repatriation.

Edward E Lundak

EDWARD E LUNDAK
Lt Col, USAF
Commander
7059 AISS

NOTE: THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE ESPIONAGE ACT, 50 U. S. C.—31 AND 32, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR THE REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS IN ANY MANNER TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. IT MAY NOT BE REPRODUCED IN WHOLE OR IN PART, BY OTHER THAN UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AGENCIES, EXCEPT BY PERMISSION OF THE DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE USAF.